Performance of Steel Industry

3175. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the performance of steel industries during last three years;

(b) the problems faced by the steel industries today; and

(c) the detailed steps taken by Government to modernise steel industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The performance of steel industries during the last 3 years in terms of production of finished steel is as below :—

Year	(in Million Tonnes)
1997-98	23.37
1998-99	23.82
1999-2000	26.48 (Provisional)

(b) The problems faced by the steel industry at present include :

(i) Sluggish growth in demand in the steel consuming sectors;

(ii) Greater competition from imports;

(iii) Dumping of finished steel;

(iv) Cost escalations in input materials for steel industry;

(v) Adverse conditions in export market for steel;

(vi) Decline in domestic and international prices.

(c) The Public and Private Sector Steel Plants have taken up the modernisation projects themselves to be technically competitive in the global market**.**

Competitiveness of SAIL

3176 . SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state the detailed plan of SAIL to overcome the setbacks it suffered and ensure competitiveness?